

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

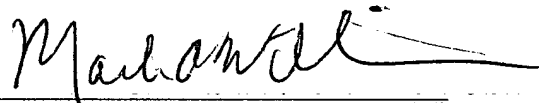
Claims 1-4, 8-10, 18-23, 27-29, and 37-39 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 20, and 39 being independent. The claims have been amended herein to further define over U.S. Patent No. 5,577,981 (Jarvik). The amended claims more clearly define the “real object”, “position/orientation of a viewpoint of the operator” and “position(s) of the virtual object(s)”. Referring to Applicants’ Fig. 11, for example, the real object can correspond to the square object in the figure, the position/orientation of a viewpoint of the operator can correspond to that of the head of the player detected by a viewpoint detection unit and the position(s) of the virtual object(s) can correspond to the circular object, which is generated by a virtual space generation unit.

One characteristic feature of the present invention is that the computation unit, step or program step can determine the next action of the virtual object(s) by referring to a rule memory or rules based on a relation among the position/orientation of a viewpoint of the operator, the position(s) of the virtual object(s) and the geometric information of the real object(s). That is, the next action of the virtual object(s) is determined based on the interrelationship among three factors. For example, in Fig. 11, the next action (moving direction) of the virtual object is determined based on the interrelationship among the position/orientation of the head of the player, the position of the virtual object and geometric information of the real object. Jarvik is not believed to disclose or suggest determining the next action based on the interrelationship among such three factors. Accordingly, the present invention is not anticipated by Jarvik at least for these reasons.

Favorable and early examination on the merits is requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, DC office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", written over a horizontal line.

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